



A.B. and Jessie  
**POLINSKY**

**CHILDREN'S**

**CENTER**

**FACT SHEET**



**POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER**

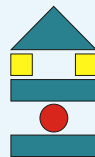
Child Welfare Services

Health and Human Services Agency

County of San Diego

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# POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER FACT SHEET

## Information And Statistics From FY 2003-2004

**History:** Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) is operated by San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), and became licensed as a group home on July 31, 2001. Dedicated in 1994, it replaced the Hillcrest Receiving Home.

The current facility was built through the efforts of a unique public-private partnership between the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation and the County of San Diego. PCC continues to receive support through public and private partnerships and individuals in the community.

**Population:** PCC offers Emergency Shelter Care for children, ranging in age from newborns to 18 years, who fall within the provisions of Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The average length of stay at PCC is 17 days, although some children may stay for several months. With a capacity of 192, PCC served an average of 114 children per day during Fiscal Year 2003/04. A total of 2,624 children were admitted to PCC during that time.

Children are normally brought to Polinsky by Child Welfare Services social workers or Law Enforcement personnel. The children are evenly distributed by gender and reflect a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. Approximately 70% are admitted due to allegations of least one form of abuse or neglect. About 30% are children who are already in protective custody, and they are admitted to PCC in order to facilitate a change of placement.

Approximately 20% of the children, who are released from PCC, are returned to their parents. Of those who remain in protective custody, about 40% are placed with relatives. The remainder are placed in foster homes or other facilities.

**Education Program:** Operated on site by the San Diego County Office of Education, PCC has a year-round school for grades K-12 and an on-grounds library for the residents. PCC direct-care staff provide classroom experience for preschool age children in collaboration with Neighborhood House Association Head Start/Early Head Start Program.

**Assessment and Treatment Services:** Social workers, counselors, teachers, and psychologists provide casework services, crisis intervention, diagnostic evaluation, psychosocial histories, developmental work-ups, and educational assessments for children requiring emergency shelter care. Input is provided to the dependency social worker and the Juvenile Court to assist them in making an appropriate disposition in the child's case. PCC direct-care staff utilize the Polinsky Active Teaching Approach (PATA) to assist youth with targeted social skills. This model is a cognitive behavioral model developed by Girls and Boys Town.

Youth are provided a variety of programs to help build their life skills. The Polinsky Day Rehabilitation Program provides a variety of groups to help in this life skill development, including Substance Abuse Prevention group, Independent Living Skills training for teens, and Violence Prevention Education groups.

For children six and under, a developmental screening is conducted by specialists from the Developmental Screening and Evaluation Program of Children's Hospital of San Diego.

**Medical Services:** HHSA contracts with Children's Hospital and UCSD Health Center to operate a 24/7 on-site clinic where pediatricians and nurses provide medical screening and care for all children admitted to PCC. Sexual abuse victims are referred to Children's Hospital and Health Center for evaluation.

**Community Involvement:** In an effort to ease the child's transition at PCC, the child is involved in a variety of activities in the community, including field trips to athletic events, recreational activities, visits to amusement parks, movies, restaurants, camping and beach trips. For information regarding these activities, please call (858) 514-4702. In addition, PCC accepts monetary or in-kind donations on behalf of the children from individuals or groups in the community.

**Volunteers:** Approximately 250 volunteers make a commitment to spend time with the children. The PCC Auxiliary and the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation provide direct service to the children by sponsoring parties and activities, arranging fundraisers as well as purchasing furniture, equipment, toys, clothing, and other items for PCC. Please call (858) 514-4606 for more information. Volunteer group activities are also organized by local churches, auxiliaries, and community support groups.